OF STATE

AIRGRAM

FOR RM USE ONLY

RMR	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
	5	
NEA	CU	INR
7		5
E	P	IO
	1	3
L	PBO	AID
Rc/m	Mro	Hall-1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
	6	
TR	XMB	AIR
		5
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	10	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
31	10	3

ACTION
POL (3)

INFO
AMB/DCM
USIS
ECON
LABOR
CHRON
RF

1966 APR 28 PM 3 41
CCPYFLD-PBR

A-684
NO.

1966 APR 28 PM

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : COPENHAGEN, HELSINKI, LONDON, MOSCOW, NEW DELHI, REYKJAVIK, STOCKHOLM, WARSAW, SAIGON
Pass to USIA 46060684 66

Viet Nam
India
Poland

FROM : Amembassy OSLO DATE: April 26, 1966

SUBJECT : Norwegian Viet-Nam "Teach-In" Stirs Wide Interest

REF : Embassy's A-495 . Pol 27 VIETS FE-8

Summary

Scandinavia's first "teach-in" on Viet-Nam was sponsored by the Norwegian Students' Association and was held in Oslo on April 16-17. The session consisted of a nationally televised TV debate by a number of prominent political and press spokesmen and a marathon presentation by some 20 international and Norwegian speakers before 2,000 students in Oslo.

The "teach-in" did not win many Norwegians to the US view of the Viet-Nam conflict. The best speakers opposed the United States, and the largely student audience probably did not alter its predisposition against US activity in Viet-Nam. But all was not lost. The US view was set forth effectively by a number of speakers. The nationally broadcast TV show presented a balance of views, and most observers agree that the United States came out rather well in it. Moreover, in that the "teach-in" gave some Norwegians a chance to hear articulate advocates of both viewpoints and to see that the conflict is more complicated than they had thought, the session may have yielded some positive results.

* * * * * * * * *

About 2,000 people, mostly students and young people, swarmed into Oslo's Folkets Hus on April 16 to take part in a marathon "teach-in" on Viet-Nam sponsored by the Norwegian Students' Association. Earlier, as part of the "teach-in", a group of well-known political and press spokesmen debated Viet-Nam before a national television audience. Reportedly it was the first "teach-in" in Scandinavia and the broadest public airing of the Viet-Nam issue in Norway.

FORM DS-323 4-62

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY
☑ In ☐ Out

Drafted by:

26 April 1966
Oslo A-684

emotional exposition surfeited with clear moral and self-righteous overtones. Chief speaker in opposition to the United States was American Professor Hans MORGENTHAU, who to the surprise of many of his readers sermonized on the "immorality" of the "mistaken" US position in Viet-Nam. He set the tone for the evening. Cambodian Cabinet official Phuong MARGAIN, quoting freely from Prince SIHANOUK, lashed out against US "intervention" which he said would "make communists" of the Vietnamese.

American David McREYNOLDS of US War Resisters' League and International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace was the last main speaker for the opposition. After bringing the audience greetings from his colleague, Staunton LYND of Yale, who having received a temporary passport to visit Oslo had found he was otherwise engaged that evening, McReynolds launched into an emotionally moving appeal for Norwegians to help restore the conscience of America which he later described as a "closed Stalinist" society. McReynolds made the only effort to incite the audience when he called upon them to set off a 24-hour silent vigil before the US Embassy to protest against the US policy in Viet-Nam.

Support for US View

Four of the seven principal speakers at Folkets Hus supported the United States. The main proponent was NYU Professor Frank N. TRAGER, who outlined the history and dangers of Chinese imperialism and the tactic of "Wars of National Liberation." While effective, Trager, however, somewhat alienated his audience with his cocky presentation and his aggressiveness in the debate later on. Vietnamese Luong Nhi KY, Counselor of his country's Embassy in Washington, made a gallant but feeble effort to present the Vietnamese view. In an inappropriate argument garbled to incomprehensibility by his accent, Ky tried to persuade the skeptical gathering that his people were fighting for democracy against communism and for freedom against oppression. Ky yielded some of his time to a young Vietnamese student studying in Germany, Phan Phuc VINH, who made a somewhat more convincing but highly emotional speech in German.

British journalist Brian CROZIER made the most effective presentation from the US view, reviewing the history of communist imperialism in Southeast Asia and pointing out the importance to the world of a meaningful US commitment. Dr. Donald BRENNAN, President of the Hudson Institute of New York, presented his assessment of the question, balancing his opposition to US bombing to his support of the main lines of US policy. But Brennan, it appeared, tried to beef up his argument for the US position when he saw how far afield the impassioned McReynolds, who proceeded him, had led the audience. Thus, Brennan seemed to lack conviction and was not too effective.